

EXHIBIT D

Excerpt of Reporter's Transcript of Grand Jury Proceedings, Testimony of Chris Bettencourt, November 1, 2018.

EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

GRAND JURY PANEL 2017

-oOo-

IN THE INVESTIGATION OF)
)
PANOCHÉ WATER DISTRICT)
)
)
)
)
)
)

Fresno, California
10:43 A.M. start time

November 1, 2018

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT
OF
GRAND JURY PROCEEDINGS
TESTIMONY OF CHRIS BETTENCOURT

APPEARANCES:

For the Plaintiff: UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S
OFFICE
4401 Federal Building
2500 Tulare Street
Fresno, California 93721
BY: GRANT RABENN,
Assistant U.S. Attorney

REPORTED BY: TAMARA MENDOZA SUMPTER, C.S.R. 9993

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

I-N-D-E-X

WITNESSES:

PG.

CHRIS BETTENCOURT

5

E-X-H-I-B-I-T-S

GRAND JURY EXHIBIT:

None marked

1 A. Or nothing.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. Yes.

4 A JUROR: My lawn died.

5 MR. RABENN: Yeah, that's when all of our lawns

6 died.

7 THE WITNESS: And Panoche was all green.

8 MR. RABENN: But Panoche was all green, yes. Yes.

9 A JUROR: So the lift that was installed, didn't

10 someone have to approve that?

11 A JUROR: The Linneman lift?

12 A JUROR: Yes.

13 BY MR. RABENN:

14 Q. She's asking did --

15 Are you saying did anyone from the government have

16 to approve that?

17 A JUROR: You said that farm area belonged to

18 Linneman, right?

19 BY MR. RABENN:

20 Q. She's asking did Mr. Linneman, the farmer, have to

21 approve of this, or do he know about this? Did you ever

22 interact with him?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. What -- was he aware of this water diversion?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And because you talked to him about it?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And would he get some of that water?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Did he have a tomato field that was adjacent to

6 that land?

7 A. No, cotton.

8 Q. Cotton. Okay.

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. So he would use that water to water his cotton

11 fields?

12 A. Correct. Either himself or his head irrigator

13 would call and say, "Hey, the canal is running a little bit

14 low. You guys need to add some more Linneman lift water in

15 there so we can run our pumps." And we didn't meter or

16 monitor any of his water outtake. So he farmed,

17 essentially, for free.

18 Q. It was a good deal for him?

19 A. And he's a board member also.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A JUROR: Really good deal.

22 BY MR. RABENN:

23 Q. So there's a great incentive for him to not report

24 that diversion to the Water Authority?

25 A. That's correct.

CERTIFICATE

I, TAMARA L. MENDOZA SUMPTER, Certified Shorthand
Reporter,

DO HEREBY CERTIFY:

That the foregoing is a true and accurate
transcript, to the best of my skill and ability, from my
stenographic notes of this proceeding.

Date: March 18, 2022



TAMARA L. MENDOZA SUMPTER
C.S.R. 9993